



NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my third Annual Report, being a report on the Health of your Town for the year ended 31st December, 1941. The Ministry of Health has asked that this report should be confined to essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1941.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	2,137 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	18,690.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) ..	5,461.
Rateable value	£122,840.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£511.16.8d.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General:

General					
		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	266	130	136	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 15.14
	{ Illegitimate	17	8	9	
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate	14	9	5	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. 53.51
	{ Illegitimate	2	2	-	
Deaths ..	..	211	117	94	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 11.28

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	1	3.34
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>3.34</u>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	48.44.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44.11.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	117.64.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	28.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	-

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1941.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	1	1
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	3	10
7. Other Tubercular Diseases	2	1	3
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	3	3
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac: Polio-myel: and Polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M), uterus (F)	2	2	4
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	4	7
15. Cancer of Breast	-	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	12	3	15
17. Diabetes	-	1	1
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	6	11	17
19. Heart Diseases	28	27	55
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	4	7	11
21. Bronchitis	14	1	15
22. Pneumonia	7	5	12
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	3
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	2	3
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	1	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	-	4	4
28. Nephritis	5	3	8
29. Puerperal Sepsis	-	1	1
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	-	1	1
32. Congenital Debility & Malaformations	5	1	6
33. Suicide	3	-	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-
35. Other Violent Causes	5	2	7
36. All Other Causes	11	7	18
	<u>117</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>211</u>

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is no change to report under this heading.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - No new or additional source of supply was brought into use but the Urban and Rural Councils of Northwich did consider and agree upon a Joint Water Scheme for the general improvement and mutual benefit of both areas. The approval of the Ministry of Health was sought and obtained to an agreed minor Scheme. Constructional operations commenced during the year 1941.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - There has been no improvement or extension works proceeded with during 1941 mainly on account of the present emergency. Periodic samples of the final effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works have been taken by the Health Department of the County Council and upon analysis by the County Analyst, a very satisfactory report has been given.

Closet Accommodation - During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 2 and the number of houses still on the conservancy system in built-up areas is 480.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets, etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

ARTICLE 27 (18), SANITARY OFFICERS' REGULATIONS, 1935.

Tabular statement of Sanitary Inspectors for the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remain-ing in hand	Prosecutions Insti-tuted	Pend-ing
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	160	-	81	47	34	-	-
2. Cellar Dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Back-to-Back Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	60	1	-	1	-	1	-
5. Courts, Yards, Passages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Pail Closets	485	-	15	15	-	-	-
7. Cesspools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. House Drainage	45	-	17	17	-	-	-
9. Ditches, Water-courses etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Offensive Accumulations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Keeping of Animals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Offensive Trades	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. a) Slaughterhouses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" (Public)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" (Private)	208	-	1	1	-	-	-
b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Piggeries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. a) Dairies	48	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Cowsheds	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Milkshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. a) Factories	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Workshops	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Workplaces	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Outworkers' premises	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Bakehouses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" (overground)	56	-	10	10	-	-	-
" (underground)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Common Lodging Houses	12	-	3	1	2	-	-
19. Houses let in Lodgings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Canal Boats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries & Re-visits	112	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1,209	1	127	92	36	1	-

SECTION D.

HOUSING - The following table based upon figures submitted to me by the Sanitary Inspector summarizes the main housing activities during the year.

1. - Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)

160.

4.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 320.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1 (house now void)

2. - Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 47.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - The routine examination of farms and dairies has been continued during the year. 48 samples of milk were submitted to the Laboratory for examination - 24 for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and 24 for bacterial content. Tubercle Bacilli were found in 3 of the samples and 8 samples proved to be unsatisfactory from a cleanliness standpoint. Appropriate action was taken in each case.

(b) Meat and other Foods - The following, based upon a statement made by the Meat Inspectors, is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned up to the 31st October, 1941, after which date the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Northwich closed down.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (approx.)	768	436	2,118	398
Number inspected	768	436	2,118	398
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	65	5	68	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	8.85	1.14	3.21	2.01
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	76	4	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	25	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.1	.91	-	.5

(c) The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(1) Apart from the occurrence of an outbreak of Whooping Cough and 9 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, the year 1941 passed off well. Of the 7 cases of Diphtheria recorded in the table below, none had received protective treatment against the disease.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis),
during the year 1941.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	36	30	-
Diphtheria	7	7	-
Para Typhoid	2	2	-
Pneumonia	10	1	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Measles	18	-	-
Whooping Cough	44	-	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	9	9	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-

The beginning of the year saw the commencement of a successful "drive", jointly with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities, against Diphtheria. Such good progress was made that by the end of the year 2,703 children under 15 years of age had received a full course of protective treatment. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year were:-

under 5 years	33.7 per cent.
between 5-15 years	88.2 " "

It would be remiss of me not to express my full appreciation of the excellent assistance given during the year by all the local Medical Practitioners and the Teachers throughout the District. Their help has, without doubt, contributed materially to the success of the Scheme.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	49	3	46
Other Organisms	2	-	2

(2) TUBERCULOSIS. The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	1
25 - 35 "	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
35 - 45 "	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-
55 - 65 "	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	5	3	3	7	3	2	1

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1940 - 160.
Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1941 - 160.

(3) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The Ministry of Health's Scabies Order 1941, received in November of that year, was given careful consideration by the Council and as a result of arrangements made jointly with the other Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities 4 Cleansing Centres were set up promptly in the joint area and cleansing work on a vigorous scale started in January 1942.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least once during the year and 56 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1942.